## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An image formation method comprising:

forming an electrostatic latent image on the surface of an image holder;

developing the electrostatic latent image by using a charged toner; and

transferring a toner image from the image holder onto an image-receiving unit by

applying a transfer bias to the image receiving unit;

wherein an amount of the transfer bias is set such that potential differences between

surface potentials of an image section and a non-image section of the image holder and a

surface potential of the image-receiving unit generate a discharging at the image section and

do not generate a discharging at the non-image section.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The image formation method according to claim 1,

wherein the image-receiving unit is an intermediate transfer unit that transfers a

primary-transfer toner image on the image holder onto a transfer material as a secondary

transfer.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The image formation method according to claim 1,

further comprising:

setting a surface potential Vt1 of the image-receiving unit to satisfy

$|Vi - Vt1| < Vd, |Vb - Vt1| > Vd$

where, Vd represents a potential difference at which a discharging is started between

two objects in the environment of forming an image, Vi represents a surface potential of the

image section on the image holder, and Vb represents a surface potential of the non-image

section on the electrostatic latent image.

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Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image formation method according to claim 2, wherein the following relationships are satisfied

$|Vi - Vt2| < Vd + |Vt3|, |Vb - Vt2| > Vd + |Vt3|$

where, Vd represents a potential difference at which a discharging is started between two objects in the environment of forming an image, Vi represents a surface potential of the image section on the image holder, Vb represents a surface potential of the non-image section on the image holder, Vt2 represents a potential applied to the ~~primary transfer section of the~~ intermediate transfer unit, and Vt3 represents an attenuation of a potential difference due to the intermediate transfer unit.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The image formation method according to claim 3, further comprising:

setting the potential difference Vd, at which a discharging is started between two objects in the environment of forming an image, to 320 V.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image formation method according to claim 2, wherein a material that constitutes the intermediate transfer unit has a volume resistance of $1 \times$ ~~103~~$\underline{10^3}$ to ~~1010~~$\underline{10^{10}}$ $\Omega$ cm.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image formation method according to claim 4, wherein a material that constitutes the intermediate transfer unit has a volume resistance of $1 \times$ ~~103~~$\underline{10^3}$ to ~~1010~~$\underline{10^{10}}$ $\Omega$ cm.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented):  The image formation method according to claim 1, further comprising:

amplifying a potential difference between the image section and the non-image section of the image holder prior to the transfer of the toner image onto the image-receiving unit.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented):  The image formation method according to claim 8, wherein the potential difference is amplified by irradiating a beam onto the toner image after the surface of the image holder has been re-charged.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended):  The image formation method according to claim 1, wherein the developing unit-is a wet-type developing unit-that develops an the electrostatic latent image formed on the image holder[[,]] by using a liquid developing agent.